

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 108** SLS 11RS 113
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 17, 2011 1:05 PM	Author: RISER
Dept./Agy.: Elections	Analyst: Evelyn McWilliams
Subject: Local Bond and Tax Elections	

ELECTION DAYS EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides that local tax elections can be held only at the same time as statewide or congressional elections. (gov sig)

Provides for restricting local tax elections to be held only at the same time as a regularly scheduled primary or general election for statewide or congressional office. Provides that the taxing authority is limited to holding one emergency bond or tax election per calendar year. Allows for the use of paper ballots when voting machines fail or when all ballot items for an election will not fit on one voting machine. Effective January 1, 2012.

EXPENDITURES	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Implementation of the proposed legislation may result in an indeterminable increase in state expenditures. Traditionally, the ballots for statewide or congressional elections are crowded and may be unable to accommodate any additional ballot items. If the needs of a single parish are greater than the number of spare voting machines available, or if additional machines are needed for more than one parish, the Secretary of State's office will have to purchase or lease additional voting machines or use paper ballots in precincts with local tax items on the ballot.

With the exception of the five largest parishes (Jefferson, Orleans, East Baton Rouge, Caddo, St. Tammany), the Secretary of State indicates that it should be able to provide for the needs of all other parishes by utilizing spare AVC and Edge voting machines. AVC voting machines are the machines currently used by voters voting at precincts. The Edge voting machines are portable voting machines used by the agency's Outreach Division and by voters during early voting. For consistency at the polling place, the agency's first choice would be to move AVC machines not in use in other parishes to a parish that had a ballot space issue. The agency would require increased funding for drayage costs to transport AVC machines from the warehouse to the required polling place. The agency estimates the increased drayage cost to be \$125 or more per machine. Expenditures associated with drayage would be incurred only when a statewide or congressional election is held.

In order to provide for a tax item on the ballot in the five largest parishes, the Secretary of State indicates it will need to purchase additional voting machines or use paper ballots. The agency intends to purchase 220 used portable voting machines at a cost of \$1,000 each (\$220,000 total). Expenditures associated with acquisition of additional voting machines is a one-time cost. The 220 additional portable voting machines combined with the 100 existing portable voting machines would be enough to provide for a tax election in a single election in St. Tammany or Caddo parishes only. If the Secretary of State opted to utilize paper ballots in St. Tammany and Caddo parishes instead of purchasing additional voting machines, it would require an additional \$54,000 for St. Tammany Parish and \$55,908 for Caddo parish.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)1 >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S}	<i>Evan Brasseaux</i>
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)2 >= \$100,000 Annual SGF Cost {H&S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	Evan Brasseaux Staff Director

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Because of the large number of precincts in the three largest parishes (Jefferson, Orleans, East Baton Rouge), the most cost effective option is use of paper ballots. Utilizing paper ballots for a tax election in the three largest parishes would require additional funding in the following amounts: \$92,942 East Baton Rouge; \$93,190 Orleans; \$93,267 Jefferson. The maximum cost for paper ballots is \$93,267.

Because there are no statewide or congressional elections scheduled in FY 14, upon enactment of this bill local bond and tax elections would have 3 times within a 4-year period to have items on the statewide ballot. However, this bill does provide for the taxing authority to hold one emergency bond or tax election per calendar year.

Election expenses for local governments will decrease when local tax elections are held at the same time as a statewide or congressional election. Local governments pay a prorated cost based on the number of items on the ballot during statewide or congressional elections.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>	
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